THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CERTIFICATE: By direction of the Secretary of Agriculture the matter contained herein is published as statistical information and is required for the proper transaction of the public business. Free distribution is limited to copies "necessary in the transaction of public business required by law." Subscription price: 25 cents per year, single copy 5 cents, payable in cash or money order to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. OCTOBER 1, 1934 Volume 18, No. 10

RAINS HELPED LATE CROPS—LIVESTOCK NUMBERS CUT

A large part of the country has been favored with generous rains during the month past, which revived pastures and meadows, helped late potatoes and other crops, and replenished streams, wells, and water supplies generally. The worst drought areas again have green vegetation in sight, though too late to meet this year's crop needs. The wet weather has somewhat delayed winter wheat seeding, as well as the maturing and harvesting of cotton, especially in the eastern belt.

The lasting consequences of the drought, as long foreseen, are now coming to rest upon the livestock industries. With corn and oats about half an average crop, and with hay much the smallest crop in 15 years, the problem is to find means for carrying foundation stock after the emergency reduction of the flocks and herds. This curtailment, already under way, will go on probably all winter. It means apparently that the country will begin the year with 8 to 10 million fewer cattle than it had a year previous. It means probably the smallest supply of hogs this winter in 20 years and very likely still smaller supplies a year from this winter.

Aside from the feed crops, interest in the late harvest centers chiefly in cotton in the South and in fruit, potatoes, and vegetables in the North. The late potato crop is estimated as a trifle larger than last year but still considerably short of an average crop. The crop is best in the East and Central States and is relatively short in the West. Considering the very moderate supply, it would seem that potato prices could be expected to strengthen somewhat above their recent low levels.

The apple crop is about a fifth smaller than last year. It is relatively better in the West than in the East or the drought-ridden Central States. This gives a little price leverage to eastern apples, which have opened the season slightly higher than last year. The export market for apples is uncertain because of a good European crop, the tariffs, and import restrictions.

The export of apples, and likewise of cotton, during the month of August was only about half as large as in the same month last year. Pork and lard shipments likewise were smaller. Wheat exports were larger; tobacco about the same.

The estimated total cash income of farmers during the month of August was about $572,000,000 (including $73,000,000 rental and benefit payments from the Government), compared with about $413,000,000 a year ago.

88122—34——1

FEED SHORTAGE FORCES LIVESTOCK CURTAILMENT

The extremely critical conditions confronting livestock producers during most of the summer as a result of the wide-spread drought have been somewhat alleviated following fairly well distributed rains in recent weeks over much of the drought area. Although conditions are still far from normal and feed supplies for the coming winter are probably the smallest on record, the somewhat panicky feeling which prevailed in July and early August no longer exists. Higher prices for cattle and hogs and the improved outlook for fall pastures and winter grain crops have given the stockman more courage and he is looking forward to better times for his industry if he can carry his flocks and herds safely through the winter with the very short feed supplies now available.

During late June and July, the unusually high temperatures which restricted consumer demand for meats and the general uncertainty regarding the outcome of the feed crops, together with some enforced liquidation because of burned-out pastures and scarcity of stock water, caused the livestock markets to weaken and prices of all stock declined.

In early August, hog prices started upward in response to a very marked seasonal reduction in slaughter supplies and some improvement in demand for meats, following the return of more moderate temperatures, and by the end of the month they had made one of the sharpest advances on record. The total rise in 4 weeks amounted to about $3 per 100 pounds, and prices at the peak were at the highest levels since the summer of 1931.

Cattle prices did not start upward until after the third week in August but in the last 10 days of that month they made an unusually sharp advance, all classes and grades participating in the rise. The upswing in cattle prices was caused in part by a curtailment in cattle marketings, but the improvement in the demand for meats and the very great reduction in hog slaughter were contributing factors. In mid-September, prices of all the better grades of cattle were at the highest levels of the year and those of the best grades of slaughter steers were at the highest levels since early 1932, top prices at Chicago reaching $10.90 per 100 pounds.

Lamb prices made only very little recovery at the time that cattle prices and hog prices were advancing, and most of the slight gain made has since been lost. A very large seasonal increase in lamb marketings, continued uncertainty in the wool markets, and a reduced demand for feeder lambs because of feed scarcity, were factors that have operated against lamb price improvement. Prices of the better grades of lambs (late September) are lower than those of a year earlier, whereas prices of practically all other kinds of livestock are higher, and in some cases much higher.

Following the marked rise in cattle and hog prices in August, prices of the better grades of cattle have held fairly steady near their peak levels but those of the lower grades and of hogs have weakened. Hog prices apparently have started their seasonal down swing which generally takes place in the last quarter of the year when marketings of new crop hogs are increasing in volume. The strength in prices of the better grades of steers and of all veal calves which is being manifested now is due primarily to the seasonal scarcity of such stock.

Supplies of long-fed and well-finished cattle during the last quarter of 1933 were unusually large, consequently prices for such cattle declined until near the end of the year. The supply situation with respect to the better grades is almost the reverse of last year and this is expected to cause prices of such cattle to hold for some time near present levels or even advance still more, although consumer resistance to increases in meat prices at present serves as a strong check on further price advances.

Government buying of cattle in the more critical drought areas has been a very important factor in sustaining cattle prices at the markets by preventing excessive supplies of low-grade cattle from being forced into commercial channels. Government purchases through September 22 totaled more than 6,000,000 head and it is contemplated that before the buying program is terminated the total will approximate 7,500,000 head. About 15.5 percent of the cattle purchased were condemned on the farm where bought as unfit for food and were destroyed. A large part of those suitable for food have been slaughtered and the meat processed for distribution by relief agencies. The others have been sent to pastures in Eastern and Southern States for further grazing and will be slaughtered later. Approximately 24 percent of the animals purchased were calves, and probably three-fourths of the cattle over one year of age were cows and heifers. A large part of the latter were of dairy breeds.

Slaughter of cattle and calves for Government account to mid-September totaled slightly more than 1,500,000 cattle and 950,000 calves. The cattle averaged 647 pounds live weight and 300 pounds carcass weight, whereas the live and dressed weights of the calves were 210 and 107 pounds, respectively. Practically all the beef from the cattle is being canned and the yield of canned beef per 100 pounds live weight is about 17 pounds. Prices paid by the Government for cattle and calves ranged from a minimum of $4 per head for calves up to $20 a head for cattle 2 years old and over. The average price paid for all cattle, including calves, thus far has been $13.51 per head.

In view of the large number of cattle bought by the Government and the heavy marketings through commercial channels this year, total cattle numbers in this country at the beginning of 1935 are likely to be at least 8 to 10 million head less than a year earlier. Most of the reduction will be in cows and heifers and in young stock which normally would have been carried over for further growth. Because of the very short feed supplies, the number of cattle that will be finished out for market during the coming winter and next spring will be much less than average and the number of well finished cattle marketed is expected to be extremely small. The scarcity of well finished cattle is likely to be most pronounced next summer. In 1902, following the severe drought and short corn crop of 1901, well finished cattle were in greatest scarcity from May to August.

Because of the great reduction in the 1934 spring pig crop, the supply of hogs this coming winter will be much smaller than average and probably the smallest in 20 years. Total federally inspected slaughter during the 6 months beginning with October probably will not exceed 21,000,000 head and may be as small as 20,000,000 head. Slaughter in that period last fall and winter, following the purchase and slaughter of 6,000,000 pigs and sows in connection with the emergency hog production control program, totaled 23,800,000 head.

Because of the very limited feed supplies for hogs there will be a marked tendency to market hogs much earlier than usual and this will result in the proportion of the winter supply coming to market before January being much larger than average and that disposed of after December much smaller than average.

Weights of hogs marketed in recent months have been much lighter than average and it is expected that weights this winter will be the lightest in many years. This will further reduce the supply of pork and lard coming on the market. The light weights and low quality of hogs marketed in recent months are reflected in the extremely low yields of lard. Yields of lard in every month since February this year have been the smallest for the months in question since records have been kept by the Bureau, and that in August of 12.83 pounds per 100 pounds of live hog was the smallest on record. Lard production during the next 12 months probably will be reduced relatively more than that of pork.

The 1934 lamb crop was estimated to be slightly larger than the 1933 crop but marketings of new crop lambs to the middle of August were somewhat smaller than in the corresponding period of last year. Since mid-August, marketings have been considerably larger than those of a year earlier and during the remainder of 1934 they are likely to continue to exceed those of last year. Supplies, however, are below average in flesh condition and because of feed scarcity the number taken out for further feeding is expected to be much smaller than the number taken last year. Supplies of fed lambs during the early months of 1935, therefore, will be somewhat smaller than in the corresponding period of 1934.

Government buying of sheep as a drought relief measure is now under way and purchases in late September had exceeded a half million head. Only ewes 1 year old and over are being bought and the price paid is $2 per head. It is contemplated that total purchases may reach at least 5,000,000 head. In many cases the aged ewes sold to the Government probably will be replaced by ewe lambs from the 1934 crop and thus reduce the number of lambs going to commercial slaughter that otherwise would be marketed.

The greatest problem now confronting stockmen in much of the area west of the Mississippi River is that of carrying the livestock now on hand through the period until the next pasture season begins. Feed supplies are shortest in Missouri, the two Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. The greatest reduction is in feed grains, hence hog producers face a more difficult situation than do producers of other kinds of livestock. Reports indicate that farmers have been doing everything possible to salvage the maximum amount of forage and because of these precautions most cattlemen probably can manage to carry their cattle through the winter without great loss. The shortage of corn and other concentrates, however, will prevent producing the usual number of well finished cattle for market, and the supply of these is expected to be the smallest in many years. The decreased supply of corn will compel hog producers to finish their hogs at much lighter than average weights and probably will cause the 1935 spring pig crop to be even smaller than the small crop of 1934, and thereby make the slaughter supply of hogs for the winter of 1935–36 even smaller than that of this coming winter.

C. A. Burmeister,
Livestock, Meats, and Wool Division.

POTATO AND APPLE PRICES SHOULD IMPROVE

Current shipments of fresh produce are about as usual at the time of year. Car-lot figures certainly show no special shortage of leading lines and the motor truck supply is liberal. Arrivals of fruits from the far West have been more in evidence than in most other seasons because of earliness and the light eastern crops.

Prices of many kinds of vegetables are not far from those of last year. Potatoes, cabbage, and celery are lower. Some fruits sell higher this year, including apples, pears, peaches, grapes, and oranges. Canned vegetables and dried fruits are higher than their earlier prices reached at the beginning of the fall season. Southern truck growers are reported to be planting a larger acreage of winter produce than that of last year. Coming prices of fruits and vegetables will depend partly on business conditions and the course of the general commodity markets. Shortage and high cost of bread grains and of meats should help the demand for the foods which are in fairly good supply at usual prices.

POTATO POSITION FAIRLY STRONG

Prices of potatoes in the early part of the main crop season seem out of line with those of a year ago. The crop was reported only 5 percent larger than last year and 8 percent below average. The 18 late potato States which supply most of the winter shipments have only 1 to 2 million bushels more than last season and 32 million less than average. Recent shipments have not been especially heavy. Yet the prices in late September, except for western russets and red varieties, were 50 cents to $1 lower per 100 pounds compared with a year ago and were still showing the usual tendency to decline during the fall months.

The main crop potato market started low in the first place, because of the carry-over from the midseason crop and the earliness of Wisconsin and far western potatoes. Speculative buying was lukewarm, owing perhaps to the rather poor average results last season from holding for the late market and because the crop is immature and may show further improvement since the rains and mild weather of September. Dull business conditions tend to slow down current demand as well as the buying for future needs.

The location of the surplus crop is not especially favorable to high prices. The bulk of crop gains, compared with last season, are in the Eastern and North Central States, fairly convenient to the large markets at moderate expense by rail and motor truck. The shortage in the far West and the light production of good western reds and russets give them enough advantage to offset high freights, but there is no such preferred position for the bulk of the potato crop. The conditions indicate full marketing of the potato production if prices are reasonably favorable. Southern growers already talk of raising more early potatoes to compete next spring. Canada has potatoes enough to spare if the price should go very high. There is nothing like a shortage of other vegetables. On the whole, the potato market prospect now is not quite so good as it was at the beginning of October last year but is still good enough to warrant a price level nearer that of last season, even if the high winter and spring prices of many other short crop seasons cannot be expected with confidence. Market prospects are best for western varieties which suit a special trade and

should meet good demand also in the drought region where local crops failed. Probably not so many western potatoes will be held over winter to compete in the spring market. They are reported running strongly to No. 2's which sell low and sometimes tend to upset the market for ordinary northern stock. Midwestern potatoes, being a moderate crop, seem likely to meet sufficient demand in their usual market territory, leaving Maine, New York, and other eastern potato States the bulk of the eastern and southern trade.

In short, the main shipping crop is not much larger than the very light production of last year and the location of the surplus is only a little less favorable. Quality is variable but mostly satisfactory and the consuming demand is likely to be about the same as last season. The prices are comparatively low for a short crop season but unless, as happened a year ago, the yield is increased during the last month or two of the growing period, the market might be expected to recover at least to a price level somewhere near that of last season.

APPLES START HIGHER

Prices of apples average slightly higher on the eastern and midwestern basket pack and about the same for northwestern box packs, as compared with the level prevailing near the beginning of October last year. The difference seems about in line with an apple crop 22 percent less, but differently located and of better market quality. The West has a market crop larger than last year but only three-fourths of the 5-year average. The eastern and midwestern producing sections have three-fourths as many market apples as last season and three-fifths of the average. Production is extremely light in the central drought region and is much less than usual in New England and in most Eastern, Southern, and Midwestern States. The proportion of marketable fruit is somewhat larger this season and the commercial crop was estimated only 9 percent less than that of last year.

The crop runs heavily to boxed apples which comprise more than half the market production, compared with the 5-year average of four-fifths. There are 4 to 5 million bushels more of market apples in the West this year but 11 million less than in 1933 in other producing sections. The quality of the eastern crop is better this season and the fruit probably has been sizing up well since the heavy rains of September. The western crop ripened fast, leading to an early, active start of the shipping season but some fruit did not color well and there was considerable late injury by insects.

On the whole, the situation is more favorable to eastern apples. The best of these have been selling in eastern markets fairly close to prices of standard western boxed apples, and price levels of leading varieties and grades are not far apart in all representative producing sections which have been following a range of $1 to $1.35 per bushel at country shipping points in the East, South, Middle West, and Northwest, not including a few high priced varieties. But while eastern apples are selling a little higher than last year in most producing sections, representative northwestern apple sales have ranged 10 to 15 percent lower than in September of last season. City markets quote $1 to $1.50 for standard eastern varieties and grades which were selling at 65 cents to $1.25 a year ago. The barrel price in the East started around $3 in the orchard districts. Buying on contract

for future delivery has been active in Michigan but trading was less confident in the eastern and southern producing sections. Cider apples started fairly high in Virginia and West Virginia at 50 to 55 cents per 100 pounds. Demand for cider and canning fruit is expected to be active. The export prospect is uncertain because of generally good apple crops in Europe and the tariff preferences and import restrictions. English markets were fairly good in late September, when southern barrel packs were selling at $4 to $9 and western boxes from $2.50 to $3.50. Other markets of Europe quoted moderately below these prices.

In view of the light apple production again this year, the good market quality of much of the fruit, and the moderate price level at the beginning of the main crop season, the course of prices in the domestic markets after harvest time may be expected to follow the slightly upward trend which is usual through the storage season.

G. B. Fiske,
Division of Economic Information.

FEWER APPLES FOR EXPORT

Smaller apple crops in the United States and Canada this year are likely to cause substantial reductions in exports this season as compared with last year. The combined exports from the two countries last season amounted to 23,000,000 bushels. On the basis of present crop prospects the exports during 1934–35 will range between 14,000,000 and 17,000,000 bushels.

The apple crop in European countries which take the greater part of the apples exported from the United States and Canada will be larger this year. The main effect of the larger European apple crop, however, will probably be to restrict the export of American apples during the early months of the season. Since the American crop is extremely small, it will not be necessary in disposing of the export surplus either to ship heavily in the early months of the season or to export as many apples as in 1933–34.

The commercial apple crop in the United States this year is placed at 68,000,000 bushels, or 29 percent of the average crop in the 5 years 1927–31. Exports in the 1934–35 season will probably range between 12 and 17 percent of the crop. On the basis of the present estimate this would give an export total of from 8,000,000 to 11,000,000 bushels compared with 12,300,000 bushels from a crop of 74,700,000 bushels last year. The proportion of the crop exported last season was unusually high for so small a crop and is explained by the improvement in foreign exchange rates, the increase in the French quota, and the short apple crop in Europe in 1933.

The commercial crop in Canada this year is placed at 11,057,000 bushels, which is a little above average, but much below last year's crop of 16,300,000 bushels. Canadian exports last season amounted to 10,300,000 bushels, or 63 percent of the crop. Unless production exceeds present estimates the Canadian exports for the 1934–35 season will probably not exceed 6,000,000 bushels.

The 1934 pear crop in the United States is placed at 23,000,000 bushels, which is slightly above an average crop and a little larger than the 1933 crop. American pears constitute practically all of

the world's export surplus of fancy table stock during the fall and winter months. Exports during 1934–35 probably will be between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bushels, or about the same as last season.

DAIRY PRODUCTION DOWN SOMEWHAT; CONSUMPTION IMPROVING

Along toward the close of August, butter prices began a downward trend which carried into September, with a sharp break early in the month, followed by a slight recovery up to mid-September. Downward price changes coming at this season of the year suggest the generally unsettled tone which prevailed in butter markets during the early part of the month, and the later recovery further reflects the sensitiveness of the market since then.

The cold-storage report for September 1 showing relatively light stocks of butter but heavy stocks of cheese, current production reports indicating heavy production in some areas and drastic curtailments in others, various prevalent opinions regarding the fall outlook—these are a few of the influences which are at present operating. To these might also be added the uncertainty of economic conditions in some sections with their resultant effect upon consumption, the pending program of Government purchases, and the possible effect on the dairy situation of changes in related or competing enterprises. In brief, the immediate future holds various possibilities of one kind or another, and dairy markets are reacting rather quickly to any new development which occurs.

Some important changes in production which took place in August show the widely different conditions affecting production. Estimated butter production for the month was 162,500,000 pounds, representing a decrease of 4,000,000 pounds, or 2.4 percent below August 1933.

In the area from Nebraska south, particularly, the estimated reduction under last year was unusually heavy, with no reason to doubt such a change since individual plants almost without exception reported reductions. Decreases under August 1933 for the States in this general area were 16.3 percent in Nebraska, 25.8 percent in Kansas, 36.0 percent in Missouri, 33.0 percent in Oklahoma, and 45.4 percent in Texas. The reduction for this area alone was approximately 10,000,000 pounds below last year.

In the South generally, in the Mountain States, and in California, there were also heavy decreases, but in the New England and Middle Atlantic States, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and the Pacific Northwest there were substantial gains. Minnesota's production in August was 4.5 percent above last year, Wisconsin 17.0 percent, Iowa 8.0 percent, Washington 5.3 percent, and Oregon almost 2 percent. Part of the Wisconsin increase is said to be due to milk diversions from cheese factories. In New York State the largest percentage increase of any State occurred, 75.0 percent, although in terms of pounds, total production was only 1,750,000 pounds compared with 1,000,000 last year. This increase in New York confirms reported receipts at wholesale markets of unusual quantities of "milk plant" butter.

There was an unusually heavy make of cheese in New York State during August, production exceeding that of last year by about 400,000 pounds, which was a 50-percent increase. That State and

Wisconsin, where there was an increase of 3 percent over last year, largely account for a total August increase of American cheese for the entire country of 4 percent, and of all types of 5.4 percent. There were sizeable gains in condensed and evaporated milk, the increases being 17 and 13 percent, respectively, but butter utilizes a proportion of total milk production so much larger than the other products, that in terms of milk equivalents the net August change for all of the products mentioned, compared with last year, was a slight decrease. For the entire calendar year up to September 1 butter decreased 7.4 percent under the corresponding period of 1933, evaporated milk decreased almost 6 percent, cheese increased about 1 percent, and condensed milk 11 percent, with the combined production of all down 6 percent.

Except for the heavy stocks of cheese in cold storage, the situation with respect to reserve supplies is a considerable shortage under last year. Stocks of creamery butter on September 1 totaled 120,435,000 pounds, compared with 175,476,000 pounds on the same date in 1933, and a September 1 average during the last 5 years of 139,891,000 pounds. Last year, stocks of butter in storage were at high record levels, but aided by the Government program of purchases for relief distribution, these stocks were moved, so that at the opening of the current season, the carry-over was about normal. The relatively low stocks at present are largely the result of low production this year, for in no month thus far in 1934 has butter production equaled that of the corresponding month of 1933. Butter continued to move into storage during the early part of this month, but the last 2 weeks the movement has been out in principal storage centers, so that the peak of the season has apparently been reached and passed.

Evaporated milk stocks are also relatively low for the season, and, as a result of an active trade output in August, the amounts held by manufacturers on September 1 were 36,000,000 pounds lower than on August 1, compared with an average reduction of 21,000,000 pounds. Total stocks of this class of goods on the 1st of September were 167,016,000 pounds, compared with 177,536,000 pounds last year. In the case of condensed milk, there was also a slight reduction under a year ago at the end of August.

Cheese stocks continue to be unusually heavy compared with 1933. American cheese in storage on September 1 amounted to 103,736,000 pounds, whereas last year on the same date storages held 94,394,000 pounds, and the 5-year average is only 83,556,000 pounds.

A comparison of all manufactured dairy products in storage in terms of milk equivalents, reveals that on September 1 there was a shortage of almost 20 percent under a year ago.

The consumption side of the picture is always interesting, and unusually so now, because of the increases which are apparently taking place. On the basis of the best information available at the moment, the apparent consumption of all manufactured dairy products increased during August in important amounts. Butter consumption is estimated to have been approximately 9,000,000 pounds heavier than in August 1933, cheese 11,000,000 pounds, condensed milk 2,000,000 pounds and evaporated milk 102,000,000 pounds. The August trade output of evaporated milk was slightly greater than in June and almost 100 percent above August of last year. It may be

88122—34——2

noted, however, in making the latter comparison, that the movement last year was unusually light. The combined increase in trade output of manufactured products was 14 percent, making the January to August, inclusive, increase 4.3 percent.

Unfortunately, information regarding consumption in fluid milk markets is not available, except as this may be reflected in receipts of fluid milk at important eastern milk markets. At New York City August receipts were 7 percent less than in August last year, but at Boston and Philadelphia there were increases, with the three markets combined showing a net decrease of 3.5 percent.

Wholesale butter prices for the month to date (Sept. 26) have averaged 1½ cents below August prices. The usual September increase of about 2 cents was prevented this year by the sharp break in butter prices which occurred last month, from which there has been only partial recovery. At present levels, however, butter is approximately 2 cents per pound higher than a year ago. Cheese prices are also about 2 cents higher. Wholesale prices of condensed milk were 20 cents lower per case in August than in August 1933, but evaporated milk prices were unchanged. Condenseries paid 11 cents more per hundredweight for August milk than last year, and milk dealers buying prices for class 1 milk were 25 cents higher in August and again this month.

L. M. Davis,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Millions of pounds; 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

Product	August			January to August, inclusive		
	1934	1933	Percent change	1934	1933	Percent change
Creamery butter	163	167	−2.4	1,168	1,261	−7.4
Cheese	58	55	+5.4	394	390	+0.9
Condensed milk	19	17	+17.3	160	145	+10.9
Evaporated milk [1]	175	155	+13.3	1,239	1,316	−5.8
Total milk equivalent	4,421	4,423	−0.1	31,543	33,589	−6.1

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Creamery butter	151	142	+6.2	1,158	1,107	+4.6
Cheese	55	44	+12.4	393	382	+2.6
Condensed milk	20	18	+13.0	148	134	+10.5
Evaporated milk [1]	209	107	+95.6	1,257	1,215	+3.4
Total milk equivalent	4,220	3,698	+14.1	31,335	30,047	+4.3

[1] Case goods only.

EGG MARKET STEADY; POSITION FIRM

The egg markets have shown but little change since the first of September. The position has been reasonably steady at all times, the only unsatisfactory feature being a slight weakness in the consumption demand. As far as prices are concerned, this weakness has been offset largely by much smaller supplies, receipts of fresh eggs at the leading terminal markets being about 10 percent less than in September last year. Prices have advanced seasonally, but somewhat less rapidly than in either August this year or September last year. The limited supply of fresh eggs has caused dealers to continue to draw heavily upon storage reserves, and stocks again showed a healthy decline.

Egg prices in general have not advanced quite as extensively as was thought probable about 6 weeks ago. During the first 3 weeks of the month the best grades of Middle Western Mixed Colors rose around 2 cents per dozen, compared with 3 cents a year ago, and nearby Eastern and Pacific Coast Whites between 2 and 3 cents, compared with 6 cents last year. At the present time, prices on Middle Western Mixed Colors are about 4 to 5 cents higher than a year earlier, but nearby Eastern and Pacific Coast Whites are approximately the same.

The failure of egg prices in September to follow through the sharp rise initiated in August may be attributed to the following causes: First, the higher retail prices made necessary by the August advance which created considerable consumer resistance and caused trade output at the principal terminal markets to become less satisfactory; and second, more widespread realization that, although stocks of eggs in storage were short of those of a year ago and current fresh egg production was also smaller, no acute shortage in egg supplies impended. At the same time, there was less eagerness on the part of commodity buyers to make commitments in the "futures" market, so that the situation became generally easier with more attention being paid to the current supply and demand situation. Owners of storage stocks have been more willing to sell whenever the market advanced to a point where they have been able to make a profit.

Stocks of shell eggs in storage on September 1 amounted to 7,936,000 cases, slightly over 1,000,000 cases less than the stocks in storage on September 1, last year, and about 600,000 cases less than the 5-year average. Frozen eggs in storage on September 1 amounted to 112,348,000 pounds. Although these stocks were in excess of those of September 1 a year ago, and also the 5-year average for September 1, net withdrawals from stocks during August were just about double those of August last year and the August 5-year average. The market on frozen eggs continued steady to firm throughout the month. Deliveries were made largely on contract, however, although some spot business was reported. The possibility that shell egg prices may be higher next year is causing a rather close holding of frozen egg stocks.

The relatively light stocks of shell eggs in storage is causing more than the ordinary amount of interest to be paid to the current trend of production. Records compiled by the United States Crop Reporting Board on farm layings showed less than the usual decline in pro-

duction during August, due chiefly to better weather conditions throughout those States which bore the full brunt of the drought this summer. In spite of this improvement, however, production per farm flock on September 1 was about 5 percent less than on the same date last year and about 17 percent less than the September 1 5-year average. Most of the decrease occurred in the North Central and South Central States where the liquidation of farm flocks was very drastic during July and August, and where the shortage in feed supplies is being felt more keenly than in other sections of the country.

An average of 60.6 hens was reported in farm flocks on September 1 compared with 63.6 on September 1 last year and 68.0 for the 5-year average. There is some possibility that from now on egg producers may be likely to cull their flocks less closely than in previous years, but in view of a 10 percent decrease in young stock raised this year, great expansion in farm flock numbers can hardly occur.

September poultry markets held relatively steady up until the third week of the month, when a slight weakness began to develop in spring chickens. This situation is said not to have been caused by any sharp increase in receipts but by an unsatisfactory demand. Prices for spring chickens have been averaging about 4 cents higher than a year ago, which in some quarters is held as being responsible for a lagging and generally unsatisfactory movement of stock into consumption channels. Supplies of poultry at the principal terminal markets have not been particularly heavy, for although packing plants throughout the Middle West continue to show receipts greater than those of a year ago, a large part of the dressed product has gone direct to storage warehouses at interior points. Stocks in storage increased more rapidly than last year, but there is no indication as yet that the into-storage movement for the rest of the year will equal that of a year ago. Total stocks of all poultry in storage on September 1 amounted to 46,054,000 pounds compared with 47,789,000 pounds on September 1, last year, and 41,616,000 pounds for the 5-year average.

The statistical position of the market continues favorable for the long-time trend, and the general undertone is steady to firm. The present weakness in spring-chicken prices is considered temporary, although there is likely to be some price recession before a complete adjustment is made. Supplies of fowl continue very light. Volume of trading is generally small, however, for although buyers will buy only day-to-day requirements at prevailing prices, dealers will not make any concessions for the purpose of closing larger sales.

B. H. Bennett,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

REVISED FARM PRICE INDEX

Revision of the index numbers of the price of farm products based on prices gathered by this Bureau since 1910, with the inclusion of 20 products not previously covered, has been completed. This revision presents two new price series, one for dairy products and the other for tobacco, and it adds a group of truck crops. The weights for the

base period are changed from 1918–23 marketings to those for the 6-year intercensus period, 1924–29. This revision was begun in 1931, utilizing the 1930 census data and other information gathered by the crop estimating service. The new index covers 34 major farm products and 13 commercial truck crops, whereas the previous series included only 27 major farm products.

The combined index numbers in the revision are more representative of prices of all farm products in that the index numbers for each group of commodities are weighted in proportion to the contribution the group makes to total cash farm income, whereas formerly the general series was computed from the weighted aggregate value for the 27 commodities used in the series. For example, the fruits included in the fruit series constitute about two-thirds of the fruit sold by farmers, whereas the cotton and cottonseed index represents all of the farm sales of these products. By weighting the fruit index by the contribution of all fruits to cash farm income, fruits, like cotton and cottonseed, are fully represented in the combined index.

This revision does not change the individual price series now in use for "basic" commodities and does not change "parity prices" of these products. The revision of the prices of dairy products was completed before the Agricultural Adjustment Act became law and these revised price series have been used in computing "parity" prices for dairy products.

The revised index numbers of all groups of farm prices combined range from 2 points lower than the old index in 1915 to 10 points above for the year 1928. The new index number for March 1933 is 55, compared with 50 for the old index number, and for August 1934 the new is 96 compared with 87 for the old. The index for cotton and meat animals remains practically unchanged; the index for grains is slightly higher. The old fruit and vegetable index is replaced by separate index numbers, one for fruits and another for commercial truck crops. The revised index numbers for chicken and egg prices are from 2 to 3 points higher. Potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and dry beans have been added to the miscellaneous group in which tobacco, hay, and potatoes are the most important commodities.

One of the most significant revisions relate to the index of prices of dairy products. For many years it has been recognized that this index number series needed revision. New data have been gathered by the crop estimating service so that the new dairy index now includes four products sold by farmers, namely, wholesale milk, butterfat, retail milk, and butter. The old index included only wholesale milk and butter. The addition of these prices to the dairy index lowers that series 2 points in 1920 and raises it a maximum of 11 points in 1932.

The new series of index numbers, by months, since 1910, has been computed by the Bureau and is available on request.

CASH INCOME FROM THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AND RENTAL AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS[1]

CASH INCOME FROM SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS

	Grains	Cotton and cotton-seed	Fruits and vege-tables	All crops	Meat ani-mals	Dairy prod-ucts	Poul-try and eggs	All live-stock and prod-ucts	Total crops and live-stock
1933	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*	*Mil-lion dollars*
August	60	28	54	183	95	93	25	229	412
September	60	92	73	271	86	88	24	208	479
October	49	147	80	353	91	87	29	211	564
November	43	117	52	285	93	81	42	227	512
December	37	76	52	207	78	82	39	203	410
1934									
January	37	51	67	217	97	79	29	208	425
February	40	45	56	188	87	75	30	196	384
March	37	39	77	186	88	89	40	220	406
April	24	36	79	163	86	86	40	217	380
May	29	23	97	173	99	103	41	249	422
June	44	20	78	164	94	105	34	246	410
July	100	22	68	219	93	102	28	244	463
August:									
1924	228	68	104	460	161	125	43	346	806
1925	190	105	94	447	189	142	51	400	847
1926	206	56	97	422	193	135	53	399	821
1927	209	69	110	461	184	147	46	396	857
1928	189	37	93	380	182	159	56	415	795
1929	257	49	118	507	207	161	65	455	962
1930	146	47	84	340	146	133	39	334	674
1931	57	7	62	159	110	103	41	262	421
1932	53	11	35	122	81	81	31	202	324
1933	60	28	54	183	95	93	25	229	412
1934	120	30	63	271	91	101	28	228	499

[1] Data for July 1933–June 1934 revised from those published in August.

BENEFIT, RENTAL, AND DROUGHT-RELIEF PAYMENTS TO FARMERS NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

	Cotton	Tobacco	Wheat	Hogs[1]	Corn-hog	Cattle[2]	Total[3]
1933	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*
August	1						1
September	49			26			75
October	51	1		4			55
November	8		2	1			12
December	3		16				19
1934							
January	32		27				60
February	14		14				28
March	3		6				9
April	1	4	2				6
May	9	4	1		2		16
June	19	3	1		5	1	29
July	8	1	1		10	11	31
August	6	2	1		38	26	73

[1] Revised. For pigs purchased under emergency hog-reduction program.
[2] For cattle purchased under drought-relief program.
[3] Total of all benefit, rental, and drought-relief payments made during month may not check exactly with sum of payments on individual program.

Cash income from the sale of farm products in August 1934, excluding the sale of cattle to the Government, was estimated at $499,000,000 compared with the revised estimate of $463,000,000 in July and $412,000,000 in August 1933. The increase in income from July to August this year, however, was much less than the usual seasonal increase because of the smaller than usual increase in the marketings of small grains, cotton, and potatoes. After adjusting for the usual seasonal changes in income from the various products, the income from marketings in August was 61.5 percent of the 1924–29 monthly average compared with 71 percent in July and 50 percent in August 1933.

Rental and benefit payments in August amounted to $47,000,000 compared with $20,000,000 in July and $1,000,000 in August last year. Income from the emergency sale of cattle in the drought areas in August amounted to $26,000,000. Thus the total cash income to farmers including rental and benefit payments and income from the emergency sale of cattle equaled $572,000,000.

During the first 8 months of 1934, farmers' cash income totaled $3,389,000,000 from the sale of farm products and $253,000,000 from rental and benefit payments and emergency sale of cattle, making a total cash income for the first 8 months of 1934 of $3,642,000,000. During the first 8 months of 1933, farmers' total cash income including rental and benefit payments was $2,925,000,000.

Exceptionally heavy marketings of corn during August resulted in the income from corn exceeding the income from wheat. This is unusual at this time of the year as income from corn marketings ordinarily reaches its low point in August while in most years August is the peak month for income from wheat. Income from other grains was also relatively low in August, but the large income from corn resulted in all grains combined showing about the usual seasonal change from July to August. Marketings of cotton in August were also exceptionally low, the increase from July to August being less than half as great as usual. Income from livestock and livestock products decreased slightly less than seasonally from July to August.

The months of September and October ordinarily mark the high point in the yearly cash receipts of farmers. Present indications are that the high point in farmers' cash income in 1934 will come in these months, but the increase over preceding months may be smaller than in past years. While farm prices have advanced sharply in response to the drought, farm marketings are just beginning to decline due to the marked reduction in the output of crops this year. The cotton crop is only two-thirds as large as last year, the spring wheat crop only a little more than half as large, and marked reductions have occurred in the production of many other crops. These reductions, together with a 28-percent decrease in the spring pig crop and smaller numbers of chickens on farms will result in a much less than usual seasonal increase in farm marketings in the next 2 months, and unless the seasonally smaller marketings are accompanied by a further advance in farm prices, income is likely to make much less than the usual seasonal increase. It is expected, however, that income from the sale of farm products during the remainder of 1934 will exceed that of $1,965,000,000 in the last 4 months of 1933.

THE FEED PROBLEM

The number of livestock on farms in the United States have been and are being reduced at a more rapid rate than ever before, and by November 1 the numbers of animal units of meat animals are expected to be only about 80 percent of the numbers on farms on the corresponding date last year.

Even with this reduction of animals the available supply of feed grains, mill feeds, and concentrates will not permit the feeding of the normal ration per head to all of the livestock.

The returns on the Special Feed and Livestock Survey recently made indicate that many farmers and stockmen are not yet fully aware of the situation confronting them and that considerable readjustments in their plans will be required.

Current marketings of dairy and poultry products and of livestock show that feeding practices are being too slowly adjusted to the volume of feed supplies in sight and for this season of the year farmers generally are feeding at a more liberal rate than can be maintained throughout the winter. The survey indicates that hog raisers in most of the drought States of the Corn Belt apparently expected to feed out their present numbers of hogs to something like usual weights and that distress sales of pigs in relation to numbers on hand, as reported, were relatively small. But in none of these States is there enough feed grain to finish the hogs if all present supplies should be used for this purpose alone.

The report also shows that even with a sharp reduction in feeding in other areas, the feed remaining for the maintenance of livestock will allow little more than a subsistence ration in the drought States. To provide even a ration subsistence in the drought States, large quantities of feed will need to be brought in from the outside. The sources of these needed supplies are uncertain.

Undoubtedly, a large part of the concentrated feeds needed will be in the form of commercial feeds, especially wheat byproducts and cottonseed cake. Many of the drought States are large producers of wheat and the amount of wheat milled in or adjacent to them is large and normally the resulting byproducts feeds are shipped east in large volume. This year undoubtedly much of this feed will be fed locally if in the final competition for it local buyers are able to buy it.

Cottonseed cake is one of the best feeds that can be used to supplement low grade roughage or short supplies of range feed, both because of its ingredients and also because of its adaptability for transportation and feeding. Normally the range stockmen of the Southwest depend almost entirely on it for supplementary feeds and will need it in large volume this year. But the production of cottonseed is greatly reduced, especially in the southwestern drought States. If anything like the amount that will be needed in all the drought areas is secured, large amounts will have to be drawn from the supply in the eastern Cotton Belt, which supply is usually used locally or goes largely into commercial feeds for use by dairymen and poultrymen in the North Atlantic States.

The final distribution of this reservoir of byproducts feeds, as well as of such feed grains as can be secured in the areas where supplies may be had, will be determined largely by the ability of the different

types of producers to buy it. It is apparent that there will be competition between those who wish to maintain their output of animal products for present use at a fairly normal volume and those stockmen in the western drought areas who are seeking to carry their breeding and young stock through in order that they may continue in the business of providing meat animals for future use.

From the feed-grain angle hogs present the most serious problem, since they are the largest consumers of such grains. To insure against further reductions in the very small supplies of pork and lard now indicated for next year, it will be necessary to feed out the present reduced number of hogs to something like average weights within the period when they would normally be fed out. With numbers reduced nearly a third, a reduction of about 35 pounds in the average live weight of hogs slaughtered (from 225 to 190 pounds) would reduce total dressed weight by nearly one-half. But to finish the hogs in the drought areas of the Corn Belt to an average of 190 pounds would take more grain than there now is available in most of these States, and their present supplies are largely needed for maintaining other stock. Shipping the pigs into sections where grain supplies are larger would not greatly improve the situation, as it takes grain to feed them wherever they may be located, but it would tend to relieve the pressure on the grain supplies in the drought States.

Dairy production will be curtailed, but the extent of this curtailment and when and where it will occur are as yet rather uncertain. Probably it will first be sharply reduced in the drought areas, next in the butterfat areas, and last in the market milk areas outside the drought States, in which latter States immediate reduction is likely, with a resulting diversion of milk from nearby butterfat areas.

A drastic reduction in the amount of feed grain used in finishing cattle and lambs for market would result in heavy liquidation of unfinished livestock during the remainder of 1934, and reduce further the short supply of meat already indicated for the first half of next year.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

Estimates of average prices received by producers at local farm markets based on reports to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this Bureau. Average or reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

Product	5-year average, August 1909–July 1914	September average, 1910–14	September 1933	August 1934	September 1934	Parity price, September 1934
Cotton, per pound----cents	12. 4	11. 4	8. 8	13. 1	13. 1	15. 6
Corn, per bushel-----cents	64. 2	71. 7	46. 5	72. 7	77. 4	80. 9
Wheat, per bushel----cents	88. 4	87. 4	71. 1	89. 6	92. 2	111. 4
Hay, per ton-------dollars	11. 87	11. 63	7. 53	12. 50	13. 03	14. 96
Potatoes, per bushel---cents	69. 7	74. 8	100. 8	68. 0	62. 8	87. 8
Oats, per bushel-----cents	39. 9	39. 0	32. 3	45. 8	50. 3	50. 3
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds dollars	5. 21	5. 35	3. 61	3. 71	4. 21	6. 56
Hogs, per 100 pounds dollars	7. 22	7. 61	3. 73	4. 61	6. 04	9. 10
Eggs, per dozen-----cents	21. 5	20. 8	16. 3	17. 2	21. 9	[1] 27. 4
Butter, per pound----cents	25. 5	25. 3	21. 1	23. 0	24. 5	32. 1
Butterfat, per pound--cents	26. 3	25. 9	19. 6	24. 3	24. 0	33. 1
Wool, per pound-----cents	17. 8	17. 3	23. 0	20. 4	19. 5	22. 2
Veal calves, per 100 pounds dollars	6. 75	7. 03	4. 96	4. 55	5. 23	8. 50
Lambs, per 100 pounds dollars	5. 90	5. 63	5. 08	5. 02	4. 86	7. 40
Horses, each----------do	142. 00	140. 00	69. 00	77. 00	79. 00	179. 00

[1] Adjusted for seasonality.

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[Aug. 1 holdings, shows nearest millions; i.e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average, 1929–33	Year ago	Month ago	September 1934
Frozen and preserved fruits-pounds	83	68	76	72
40 percent cream---40-quart cans	-------	[1] 165	[1] 170	[1] 147
Creamery butter----------pounds	140	175	109	120
American cheese----------do	84	94	97	104
Frozen eggs----------do	101	102	122	112
Shell eggs----------cases	[1] 8, 568	[1] 8, 944	[1] 8, 961	[1] 7, 936
Total poultry----------pounds	42	48	45	46
Total beef----------do	44	48	62	80
Total pork----------do	640	757	644	540
Lard----------do	138	224	209	169
Lamb and mutton, frozen---do	2	1	2	2
Total meats----------do	756	879	785	712

[1] 3 ciphers omitted.

PRICE INDEXES FOR AUGUST 1933

Farm products figures from this Bureau; commodity groups from Bureau of Labor Statistics (latter shown to nearest whole number). Shows year ago and latest available month.

FARM PRODUCTS

[Prices received by producers, August 1909–July 1914=100]

Product	August 1933	July 1934	August 1934	Month's trend
Cotton	71	99	106	Higher.
Corn	76	92	113	Do.
Wheat	85	89	101	Do.
Hay	63	86	105	Do.
Potatoes	188	96	98	Do.
Beef cattle	73	75	71	Lower.
Hogs	52	55	64	Higher.
Eggs	62	66	80	Do.
Butter	80	85	90	Do.
Wool	128	122	116	Lower.

COMMODITY GROUPS

[Wholesale prices, 1910–14=100] [1]

Group	August 1933	July 1934	August 1934	Month's trend
Farm products	81	90	98	Higher.
Foods	100	110	115	Do.
Hides and leather products.	142	134	130	Lower.
Textile products	132	127	126	Do.
Fuel and lighting	124	140	142	Higher.
Metals and metal products.	95	102	102	Unchanged.
Building materials	147	158	155	Lower.
Chemicals and drugs	90	93	93	Unchanged.
House-furnishing goods	142	150	150	Do.
All commodities	102	109	112	Higher.

[1] Index as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics divided by the following averages for 1910–14: Farm products, 71.3; foods, 64.5; hides and leather products, 64.5; textile products, 56.3; fuel and lighting, 52.7; metals and metal products, 85.3; building materials, 55.2; chemicals and drugs, 81.2; house-furnishing goods, 54.6; and all commodities, 68.5.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910–14=100]

Year and month	Wholesale prices of all commodities [1]	Industrial wages [2]	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—[3]			Farm wages	Taxes [4]
			Living	Production	Living-production		
1910	103	------	98	98	98	97	------
1911	95	------	100	103	101	97	------
1912	101	------	101	98	100	101	------
1913	102	------	100	102	101	104	100
1914	99	------	102	99	100	101	101
1915	102	101	107	104	105	102	110
1916	125	114	124	124	124	112	116
1917	172	129	147	151	149	140	129
1918	192	160	177	174	176	176	137
1919	202	185	210	192	202	206	172
1920	225	222	222	174	201	239	209
1921	142	203	161	141	152	150	223
1922	141	197	156	139	149	146	224
1923	147	214	160	141	152	166	228
1924	143	218	159	143	152	166	228
1925	151	223	164	147	157	168	232
1926	146	229	162	146	155	171	232
1927	139	231	159	145	153	170	238
1928	141	232	160	148	155	169	239
1929	139	236	158	147	153	170	241
1930	126	226	148	140	145	152	238
1931	107	207	126	122	124	116	218
1932	95	178	108	107	107	86	189
1933	96	171	109	108	109	80	------
1933							
April	88	165	------	------	101	73	------
May	92	169	------	------	102	------	------
June	95	172	102	104	103	------	------
July	101	176	------	------	107	78	------
August	102	176	------	------	112	------	------
September	103	179	117	114	116	------	------
October	104	177	------	------	116	86	------
November	104	175	------	------	116	------	------
December	103	176	117	114	116	------	------
1934							
January	105	179	------	------	117	81	------
February	107	179	------	------	119	------	------
March	108	184	121	119	120	------	------
April	107	183	------	------	120	88	------
May	108	183	------	------	121	------	------
June	109	182	122	121	122	------	------
July	109	181	------	------	122	90	------
August	112	184	------	------	123	------	------

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index obtained by dividing the new series 1926=100, by its pre-war average 1910–14, 68.5.

[2] Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June 1914=100.

[3] Revised. These indexes are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

[4] Revised. Index of farm real-estate taxes, per acre, 1913=100.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER [1]

[August 1909–July 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices								Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Cotton and cotton seed	Fruits	Truck crops [2]	Dairy products	Chickens and eggs	Meat animals	All groups		
1910	104	113	101	-----	99	104	103	102	98	104
1911	96	101	102	-----	95	91	87	95	101	94
1912	106	87	94	-----	102	100	95	100	100	100
1913	92	97	107	-----	105	101	108	101	101	100
1914	102	85	91	-----	102	106	112	101	100	101
1915	120	77	82	-----	103	101	104	98	105	93
1916	126	119	100	-----	109	116	120	118	124	95
1917	217	187	118	-----	135	155	174	175	149	117
1918	227	245	172	-----	163	186	203	202	176	115
1919	233	247	178	-----	186	209	207	213	202	105
1920	232	248	191	-----	198	223	174	211	201	105
1921	112	101	157	-----	156	162	109	125	152	82
1922	106	156	174	-----	143	141	114	132	149	89
1923	113	216	137	-----	159	146	107	142	152	93
1924	129	212	125	150	149	149	110	143	152	94
1925	157	177	172	153	153	163	140	156	157	99
1926	131	122	138	143	152	159	147	145	155	94
1927	128	128	144	121	155	144	140	139	153	91
1928	130	152	176	159	158	153	151	149	155	96
1929	120	144	141	149	157	162	156	146	153	95
1930	100	102	162	140	137	129	133	126	145	87
1931	63	63	98	117	108	100	92	87	124	70
1932	44	47	82	102	83	82	63	65	107	61
1933	62	64	74	104	82	75	60	70	109	64
1933										
May	63	65	74	89	78	65	65	68	102	67
June	63	69	86	111	80	58	66	71	103	69
July	94	84	81	102	88	69	66	83	107	78
August	81	71	74	95	85	69	64	79	112	71
September	78	69	78	147	89	78	62	80	116	69
October	69	71	77	123	91	93	64	78	116	67
November	75	76	70	127	92	102	59	80	116	69
December	73	77	74	114	88	94	52	78	116	67
1934										
January	76	82	86	102	84	82	55	77	117	66
February	79	93	87	101	92	78	65	83	119	70
March	79	94	97	79	95	74	66	84	120	70
April	77	94	96	98	91	72	64	82	120	68
May	78	90	110	89	91	72	64	82	121	68
June	89	94	137	80	93	72	64	86	121	71
July	91	99	113	102	94	76	66	87	122	71
August	106	107	101	108	97	86	68	96	125	77
September	112	110	93	110	99	104	82	102	126	81

[1] Revised.

[2] The original "Index Numbers of Prices to Producers of Commercial Truck Crops for Shipment" (with 1924–29=100) were raised to the level of all other group indexes (with a pre-war base) in 1924–29 by multiplying by 146.

THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, and sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this Bureau.

Year and month	Receipts					
	Wheat	Corn	Hogs	Cattle	Sheep	Butter
Total:	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000*	*1,000*	*1,000*	*1,000 pounds*
1920	332,091	209,079	42,121	22,197	23,538	402,755
1921	416,179	338,216	41,101	19,787	24,168	468,150
1922	413,106	378,598	44,068	23,218	22,364	526,714
1923	386,430	271,858	55,330	23,211	22,025	545,380
1924	482,007	278,719	55,414	23,695	22,201	587,477
1925	346,381	223,604	43,929	24,067	22,100	574,489
1926	362,876	234,873	39,772	23,872	23,868	572,935
1927	455,991	241,245	41,411	22,763	23,935	581,592
1928	495,450	335,149	46,527	21,477	25,597	577,929
1929	437,681	264,934	43,715	20,387	26,834	602,665
1930	402,398	247,483	40,774	19,166	29,808	584,196
1931	420,758	172,514	39,537	19,617	33,022	609,611
1932	255,042	150,064	35,030	17,333	29,303	610,785
1933	219,744	258,905	40,369	16,994	27,139	663,221
August:						
1920	40,832	9,228	2,491	1,963	2,606	44,446
1921	68,919	30,061	2,656	1,867	2,500	51,923
1922	59,694	24,708	3,037	2,149	1,951	50,915
1923	63,012	20,845	3,714	2,214	1,800	47,497
1924	88,461	18,841	3,196	1,934	2,005	57,282
1925	41,928	17,488	2,549	2,245	2,064	57,556
1926	67,952	11,513	2,804	1,997	2,277	50,476
1927	78,909	17,023	3,041	2,065	2,209	57,446
1928	78,372	20,485	2,523	1,829	2,362	55,339
1929	97,041	18,414	2,965	1,619	2,544	54,885
1930	79,643	19,827	2,617	1,605	2,583	44,821
1931	57,438	11,489	2,454	1,822	3,270	45,588
1932	38,545	15,182	2,405	1,606	2,919	52,082
1933	25,496	11,591	3,917	1,657	2,752	63,877
1933						
September	21,833	21,435	[1] 6,494	1,652	2,911	54,844
October	15,042	23,285	2,521	2,178	3,268	50,801
November	10,764	22,005	3,207	1,203	2,064	47,955
December	10,910	16,308	3,332	901	1,774	49,226
1934						
January	8,278	14,669	4,231	1,643	1,818	45,882
February	9,743	14,192	2,728	1,407	1,456	40,888
March	9,208	13,694	2,468	1,500	1,570	50,520
April	7,830	7,236	2,674	1,592	1,838	47,206
May	11,780	7,870	3,076	1,809	2,114	61,499
June	19,918	9,490	2,684	1,215	1,810	63,812
July	44,930	28,345	2,519	2,129	2,152	61,251
August	21,305	40,275	2,067	3,071	2,615	57,881

[1] Includes hogs purchased on Government account from Aug. 23 to Sept. 29, 1933.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by the Foreign Agricultural Service Division of this Bureau.

Year and month	Wheat,[1] including flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon,[2] hams, and shoulders	Lard [3]	Apples (fresh)	Cotton,[4] running bales
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bales*
Total:						
1920	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	5, 393	6, 111
1921	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	5, 809	6, 385
1922	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	4, 945	6, 015
1923	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	8, 876	5, 224
1924	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	10, 261	6, 653
1925	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	10, 043	8, 362
1926	193, 971	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	16, 170	8, 916
1927	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	15, 534	9, 199
1928	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	13, 635	8, 546
1929	154, 348	555, 347	275, 118	829, 328	16, 856	7, 418
1930	149, 154	560, 958	216, 953	642, 486	15, 850	6, 474
1931	125, 686	503, 531	123, 246	568, 708	17, 785	6, 849
1932	82, 118	387, 766	84, 175	546, 202	16, 919	8, 916
1933	27, 512	420, 418	100, 169	579, 072	11, 029	8, 532
August:						
1920	32, 896	41, 239	32, 693	31, 021	72	145
1921	67, 338	52, 815	77, 574	87, 411	59	416
1922	39, 198	28, 958	51, 353	68, 907	171	268
1923	20, 183	33, 480	69, 194	83, 758	356	241
1924	21, 296	33, 410	52, 367	75, 937	408	272
1925	12, 007	34, 890	31, 770	45, 740	285	313
1926	35, 479	26, 263	29, 097	54, 273	368	385
1927	28, 361	27, 817	16, 839	50, 816	524	322
1928	14, 755	26, 200	24, 913	50, 658	534	253
1929	17, 338	40, 406	24, 743	55, 487	361	226
1930	24, 413	38, 716	18, 127	49, 287	447	366
1931	11, 919	22, 302	9, 917	34, 510	550	211
1932	5, 851	22, 149	5, 303	34, 973	413	452
1933	1, 721	23, 440	9, 385	35, 714	490	531
1933						
October	1, 490	64, 464	8, 147	49, 812	1, 433	1, 047
November	1, 930	42, 566	10, 306	47, 563	1, 695	915
December	6, 876	60, 783	6, 561	54, 778	1, 896	820
1934						
January	5, 548	25, 753	4, 965	51, 202	2, 556	739
February	4, 039	27, 571	7, 012	36, 908	2, 166	628
March	4, 733	43, 024	7, 206	39, 493	1, 029	567
April	5, 482	39, 887	6, 280	39, 350	387	387
May	2, 725	30, 512	7, 702	66, 167	35	285
June	1, 415	27, 799	8, 137	41, 008	9	459
July	2, 168	17, 636	11, 572	33, 466	127	306
August	3, 818	23, 620	8, 769	29, 358	201	268

[1] Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal to 1 barrel of flour.
[2] Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.
[3] Excludes neutral lard.
[4] Excludes linters.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	August 1933	July 1934	August 1934	Month's trend
Production				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons).	97	89	83	Decrease.
Bituminous coal (million tons).	34	25	27	Increase.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons).	2,864	1,473	1,363	Decrease.
Consumption				
Cotton, by mills (thousand bales).	589	360	421	Increase.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation shipments of finished steel products (thousand tons).	668	370	378	Do.
Building contracts in 37 northeastern States (million dollars).	106	120	120	Unchanged.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands).	2,962	1,777	1,420	Decrease.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands).	1,079	1,672	2,186	Increase.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands).	1,291	998	1,106	Do.
Movements				
Bank debits (outside New York City) (billion dollars).	12	14	13	Decrease.
Carloadings (thousands)	2,531	2,346	2,420	Increase.
Mail-order sales (million dollars).	40	37	44	Do.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands).	325	345	348	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars).	135.86	133.87	130.46	Decrease.
Interest rate (4–6 months' paper, New York) (percent).	1.50	.88	.88	Unchanged.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor).[1]	110	113	115	Increase.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor).[1]	102	109	112	Do.

[1] 1910–14 basis.

Data in the above table, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1934